

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 2, 3 and 5-14. Claim 1 has been canceled in favor of new claim 14 to better define the invention. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, and 5-13, which previously depended on claim 1, have been amended to depend on new claim 14. These claims have also been amended to improve their form. Support may be found, *inter alia*, in the original claims and drawings. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 1-13 were objected to because claim 1 did not include a preamble with a transitional phrase such as "comprising". In response, Applicants have, *inter alia*, canceled claim 1 in favor of new claim 14 and amended claims 2-3 and 5-13 to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments overcome the Examiner's objection to the claims on the basis of these informalities, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection on that basis be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 and 5 (and presumably 6-11 and 13 as well) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Faykish et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,169,707* in view of *Reininger*

U.S. Patent No. 2,231,139. Essentially the Examiner's position was that *Faykish et al.* discloses the illuminable information unit recited in the rejected claims, except for specifically teaching the cover layer being opaque, that *Reininger* discloses this feature, and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide *Faykish et al.* with an opaque cover layer. Apparently no prior art rejection has been made with respect to claim 12.

In response, Applicants have canceled claim 1 in favor of new claim 14 to better define the invention and respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

As set forth in new claim 14, Applicants' invention provides a rear illuminable information unit for a technical apparatus or machine. The unit has a plastic transparent housing including a rear surface illuminable by an artificial light source and a front surface, a plurality of transparent scatter bodies embedded in the housing, and an opaque cover layer provided on the front surface of the housing with the cover layer including a plurality of recesses produced by laser processing. In this way, Applicants' invention provides a rear illuminable information

unit which is readable day and night independently of the viewing angle and which may be manufactured inexpensively.

The primary reference to *Faykish et al.* fails to disclose or suggest a rear illuminable information unit which is illuminable from the side that is opposite to the opaque cover layer. As can be seen in FIGS. 1 through 3 of *Faykish et al.* such illumination is not possible because of the reflector 20, 120 or 220. See also *Faykish et al.* at col. 3, lines 51 through 53, col. 7, lines 58 through 64, col. 8, lines 65 through 67, col. 9, lines 3 through 5 and 24 through 26.

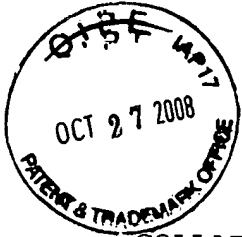
The defects and deficiencies of the primary reference to *Faykish et al.* are nowhere remedied by the secondary reference to *Reininger*. *Reininger* also is not suitable for a transmissive set up as recited in Applicants' new claim 14. In the embodiment according to FIGS. 1 and 2 the opaque, i.e. reflecting, coating 13 is provided on the rear surface 9. Therefore, if one were to direct an LED or other focused light source onto the device from behind i.e. in FIG. 2 from the bottom, the light would be blocked by the symbol itself or the reflective coating so that a transmissive illumination path is not present. Moreover, a scattering effect effected by the protuberances 10 could not

occur as these protuberances would be outside the illumination path if the light was directed towards the bottom instead of from front surface 8 as contemplated by *Reininger*. A transmissive illumination path is also not possible in the embodiments according to FIGS. 3, 4 and 5 of *Reininger* because the reflective, i.e. opaque, coating 13 extends accross the entire back side 9 of the device.

With Applicants' rear illumination unit as recited in new claim 14, the opaque cover layer is provided at the exiting face of the information unit opposite from the entry surface which is directly illuminated by the light source, which it is respectfully submitted is nowhere disclosed or suggested by any of the references cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 14, together with claims 2, 3 and 5-13, which depend directly or indirectly thereon, define patentable and unobvious subject matter.

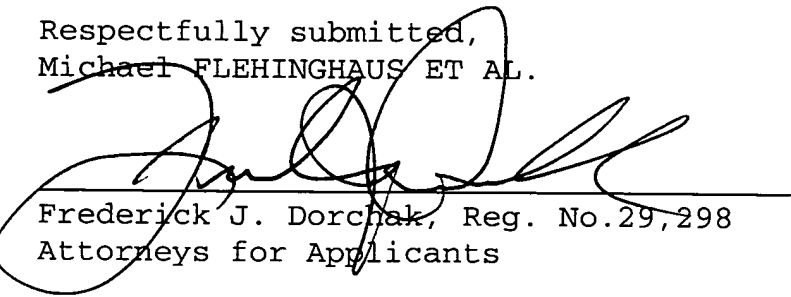
In summary, claims 2, 3, 5-13 have been amended, claim 1 has been canceled, and new claim 14 has been added. In view of the

foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.



Respectfully submitted,
Michael FLEHINGHAUS ET AL.

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802
FJD:djp


Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No. 29,298
Attorneys for Applicants

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